

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /060 W

-----020637 280737Z /23

R 280652Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9703

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM: FINAL RESULTS

REF: A MANILA 19626, B MANILA 20042

1. ON DECEMBER 24, COMMISSION OF ELECTIONS (COMELEC) PRE-SENTED FINAL REFERENDUM RESULTS TO PRESIDEN TMARCOS. FINAL TALLY SHOWED THAT OUT OF TOTAL OF 22,466,654 VOTES CAST, 20,062,782 OR 89.3 PERCENT VOTED "YES", I.E. VOTED IN FAVOR OF PRESIDENT MARCOS CONTINUING IN OFFICE. 2,104,209 OR 9.4 PERCENT, VOTED "NON" AND 299,663, OR 1.3 PERCENT, ABSTAINED. IF COMELEC'S PRE-REFERENDUM ESTIMATE OF 27.5 MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS (INCLUDING SIX MILLION NEW VOTERS AGED 15 TO 18) IS ACCURATE, THEN 82 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS CAST BALLOTS.

2. PERCENTAGE OF "YES" VOTES BY REGIONS WAS:

-- RETGON I (ILOCOS) 94.8 PERCENT

-- REGION II (CAGAYAN VALLEY) 95.4 PERCENT

-- REGION III (CENTRAL LUZON) 90.5 PERCENT

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-- REGION IV (METRO MANILA) 90.8 PERCENT

-- REGION IV-A (SOUTHERN TAGALOG) 89.2 PERCENT

-- REGION V (BICOL) 89.8 PERCENT

-- REGION VI (WESTERN VISAYAS) 92.1 PERCENT

-- REGION VII (CENTRAL VISAYAS) 86.6 PERCENT

-- REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS) 90.6 PERCENT

-- REGIONAL IX (WESTERN MINDANAO) 86.2 PERCENT

-- REGIONAL X (NORTHERN MINDANAO) 82.5 PERCENT
-- REGION XI (SOUTHERN MINDANAO) 76.8 PERCENT
-- REGION XII (CENTRAL MINDANAO) 92.1 PERCENT

3. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS INTERPRETED REFERENDUM OUTCOME AS RESOUNDING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS AS WELL AS RE-ENDORSEMENT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS GRANTED MARCOS BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS APPROVED IN THE OCTOBER 16, 1977, REFERENDUM/PLEBISCITE. THE PRESS HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE 89.3 PERCENT AFFIRMATIVE VOTE REPRESENTS SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THE 87.5 PERCENT WHO ENDORSED OCTOBER 1976 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. WITH CHARACTERISTIC OPPORTUNISM, PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR THE LANDSLIDE OF "YES" VOTES WHILE DEFLECTING BLAME FOR THE "NO" VOTES TOWARD LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS LINE WAS ECHOES IN DECEMBER 27 DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL WHICH SAID: "IT'S A FACT THAT IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THE PRESIDENT GOT A LOW PERCENTAGE OF "YES" VOTES, THE LOCAL EXECUTIVES HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THEIR CONSTITUENTS." IF A LOCAL OFFICIAL FAILED TO DELIVER "YES" VOTES, EDITORIAL CONTINUED, "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE LEADERSHIP OF RESPECT NECESSARY TO WIN VOTES FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE."

4. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM WAS UNNECESSARY AND LARGELY MEANINGLESS EXERCISE WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STIRRED LITTLE INTEREST AMONG FILIPINOS. ATTENTION ALREADY HAS TURNED FROM THE REFERENDUM TO THE MORE INTRIGUING POSSIBILITY THAT MARCOS WILL PUSH AHEAD AS PROMISED WITH ELECTION OF AN INTERIM BATASANG PAMBASA (NATIONAL LEGISLATURE) NEXT YEAR. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS WHAT KIND OF ELECTION FORMAT AND CAMPAIGN RULES MARCOS WILL DEVISE TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATURE IS DOMINATED BY LOYALISTS.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFERENDUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771212/aaaaajsp.tel
Line Count: 103
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 121712
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM: FINAL RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, RP
To: STATE
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